



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Attorney General

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Attorney General

February 20, 2009

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National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board  
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Planning Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's recent surprise vote to remove the three planned spot improvements to I-66 inside the Beltway from the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program and Constrained Long Range Plan until the completion of an ongoing multimodal corridor study. That study is not expected to be complete for two or three additional years.

This decision essentially means that no aspect of the project, even a "shovel ready" spot improvement that was slated to begin this year will go forward, regardless of whether it is eligible for funding under the recently signed federal stimulus act. It also is my understanding that this decision could jeopardize \$22 million of federal funding that was directed to this project.

This project would add greatly needed capacity to I-66. As a native of Northern Virginia and a frequent traveler on I-66 and the surrounding highways, I am very aware of the severe congestion issues that I-66 commuters face on a daily basis. Adding capacity to the region generally and to I-66 specifically is necessary to help alleviate the ever-increasing congestion and also to facilitate evacuation of Arlington and the District should a large-scale emergency occur.

It is my understanding that opponents to the "spot improvements" argued that the project should not go forward until the completion of a full multimodal study on how best to combat congestion. I support considering any and all solutions to easing congestion in Northern Virginia and elsewhere across the state, including expansion of rail and transit projects. However, I am not in favor of delaying for several more years a previously agreed-upon effort to immediately alleviate crystal clear problems, while the burden on commuters continues to escalate. Now is the time for action, not more study!

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Given the very negative results of such a precipitous action for Northern Virginia commuters, an immediate reconsideration of this decision is in order. I hope the Board will continue to cooperate and work with the Virginia Department of Transportation to ensure that transportation planning for the region is carried out in an effective manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. McDonnell', written in a cursive style.

Robert F. McDonnell

cc: The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine, Governor  
Pierce R. Homer, Virginia Secretary of Transportation  
The Honorable Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
John W. Foust, Member  
Catherine M. Hudgins, Member  
Jeff C. McKay, Member  
Penelope A. Gross, Vice Chairman  
Gerald W. Hyland, Member  
Linda Q. Smyth, Member  
Pat Herrity, Member  
Michael R. Frey, Member